



OUTCOME OF THE 49TH MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION (HELCOM HOD)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda..... | 2 |
| Agenda Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 37-2016..... | 2 |
| Agenda Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting | 2 |
| Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups | 3 |
| Agenda Item 5 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters | 14 |
| Agenda Item 6 Any other business | 14 |
| Agenda Item 7 Next meeting(s)..... | 16 |
| Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting..... | 16 |
| Annex 1 List of Participants..... | 17 |
| Annex 2 Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017..... | 19 |
| Annex 3 Statement by Denmark concerning the draft Roadmap for designating a NECA in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea as well as the NECA-related outcome of MARITIME 15-2015..... | 22 |
| Annex 4 HELCOM project on the assessment of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea..... | 23 |
| Annex 5 Statement by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation | 26 |
| List of Documents..... | 27 |

OUTCOME OF THE 49TH MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION (HELCOM HOD)

Introduction

0.1 The 49th Meeting of the Heads of Delegation was held in the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland, on 10-11 December 2015.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by participants from all Contracting Parties as well by Observers from Baltic Farmers' Forum on Environment (BFFE), Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB), Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), John Nurminen Foundation (JNF), Oceana and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. Harry Liiv.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda as contained in document 1-1.

Agenda Item 2 Preparations for HELCOM 37-2016

Documents: 2-1, 2-2

2.1 The Meeting discussed and agreed on the Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 37-2016 (10-11 March 2016) (document 2-2) with the addition of a new agenda item "Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting" as Agenda Item 3.

2.2 The Meeting discussed the preparations for HELCOM Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference (9 March 2016) and took note of input to the programme from Contracting Parties and endorsed in principle the draft provisional programme for the HELCOM Stakeholder Conference (document 2-1) to be further developed based on the discussions in the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting

Documents: 3-1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the updated Roadmap of HELCOM activities based on the progress since HOD 48-2015 (document 3-1) and agreed that the Roadmap is to be further updated based on the outcome of this Meeting and submitted to HELCOM 37-2016 for endorsement.

3.2 The Meeting discussed the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and identified HOLAS II and MAI/CART as the most important issues suitable for ministerial attention, with the possibility to include other issues as well. The Meeting agreed that in order to attract high-level political attention the discussion of the next Ministerial Meeting should focus on a few topical priority issues and that the programme should be arranged so that it is interactive and the ministers can actively make an impact, and a new type of outcome could be planned for.

3.3 The Meeting tentatively agreed that the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting will be held in 2018. The exact timing will be decided as soon as possible based on knowledge of other events on the international agenda and the development of the priority topics identified and invited the Secretariat to start preparations.

Agenda Item 4 Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-11, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14, 4-15, 4-16, 4-17, 4-18, 4-19, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 4-24, 4-25, 4-25-Corr.1, 4-26, 4-27, 4-28, 4-29, 4-30, 4-30-Corr.1, 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-38, 4-39

Pressure

- 4.1 The Meeting took note in general of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the new Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (PRESSURE 3-2015), Copenhagen, Denmark, 7-9 October 2015 (document 4-3), presented by the Chair of the Pressure WG Mr. Lars Sonesten.
- 4.2 The Meeting welcomed the offers for leadership in implementing the actions from the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) received so far from the Contracting Parties and other actors and the information that Germany is ready to co-lead matters related to the implementation of the pressure-related actions of the RAP ML, if needed and having also a co-lead for the State & Conservation WG related parts, and invited further offers for lead in the remaining actions.
- 4.3 The Meeting was of the opinion that the work on further development of the HELCOM Recommendation on sewage sludge management should be continued by the Pressure group and the issues related to the Annexes containing limit values should be further discussed by experts in order to prepare acceptable suggestions for the meeting of PRESSURE 4-2016. The Meeting took note that Germany will provide initial suggestions by end of the year 2015.
- 4.4 The Meeting noted the Terms of Reference for the HELCOM Expert Network on Marine Litter (EN-Marine Litter) (Attachment 1 in document 4-3).
- 4.5 The Meeting welcomed the offer by Germany to lead development of the registry of sources of impulsive underwater noise and related indicator.
- 4.6 The Meeting took note of the concerns by Finland and Estonia regarding the impact of dredging activities in the Port of Bronka (Russia) and that a letter has been sent by Finland as well as the HELCOM Executive Secretary to the Russian Federation requesting information on how the requirements of the Helsinki Convention have been followed in this large scale operation.
- 4.7 The Meeting noted that this information request concerns e.g. the exact amounts and level of contamination of material dredged and dumped for the port construction, as well as monitoring in the area.
- 4.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that the data required to prepare the detailed answer to the request is being collected from data holders and that the information will be provided to the Contracting Parties as soon as the compilation is ready. The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that some information is available in English on the web page of the Port of Bronka at <http://eng.port-bronka.ru>.
- 4.9 The Meeting noted the status of reporting within PLC-6 and annual PLC, and requested Poland and Russia to report annual PLC data as soon as possible.
- 4.10 The Meeting approved arranging the next meeting of the Pressure WG (PRESSURE 4-2016) on 19-21 April 2016 in Gothenburg, Sweden, and PRESSURE 5-2016 on 24-28 October 2016 and welcomed the offer by Poland to consider hosting the Meeting.
- 4.11 The Meeting took note of the information on the status of reporting and assessment of dredging and exploration of mineral resources in the Baltic Sea (document 4-32), provided feedback to the Secretariat regarding the focus of such assessment and welcomed the information that Pressure WG at its next meeting will consider both the assessment methodology and related improvements in reporting, taking into account similar work in OSPAR. The Meeting requested that also the Maritime Working Group is involved in improving the assessment of dredging activities/depositing of dredged material.
- 4.12 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM Recommendation 36/2 on management of dredged material and its reporting format has been recently revised and adopted.

4.13 The Meeting considered progress in the elaboration of the PLC products (document 4-11) and an updated division of tasks and timetable in the implementation plan of the HELCOM MAI-CART OPER project (document 4-11-Add.1).

4.14 The Meeting decided that the next PLC assessment (PLC-7) will be made in 2019 based on the monitoring data from 2017. The Meeting agreed on the need to make already plans for timing of PLC-8 assessment to be able to plan ahead and noted the proposal by Germany to conduct monitoring in 2021 and reporting in 2023. The Meeting requested PRESSURE 4-2016 to consider the timing of PLC-8 and make a proposal to HOD 50-2016.

4.15 The Meeting recognized that the PLC assessment routine needs re-consideration, since the “traditional” PLC products have changed their character, and the focus in periodic PLC is much more now on source apportionment and effectiveness of measures. Also coupling of future PLC assessments and CART assessment needs to be further considered by Pressure WG.

4.16 The Meeting took note of the view by Germany that human and financial resources should be dedicated to PLC-7 to work towards a more harmonised approach for source apportionment, aiming at harmonising the catchment models (or even using one catchment model for all countries).

4.17 The Meeting discussed the first draft of the CART assessment (accessible via a link circulated by the Secretariat) and appreciated efforts made by the experts involved in preparing the assessment. The Meeting noted that a few of the Contracting Parties had some further suggestions for improvements, however, recognized that the assessment should be published without further delay as clear indications where the Baltic Sea region stands with respect to CART are urgently needed.

4.18 On the basis of the above, the Meeting agreed to publish the CART assessment as preliminary results with the understanding that these are scientific results, noting that besides editorial improvement the two remaining issues are:

- to include, in the key message, information that Poland accepts the Polish Country Allocated Reduction Targets as indicative due to the ongoing national consultations and confirms their efforts to finalize these consultations as soon as possible;
- in the key message tables it should be made clearer that there is a difference in how far the countries are from the targets.

4.19 The Meeting agreed that in the future the science-based CART assessment product has to be separated from a policy message product, related to the implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme.

4.20 The Meeting requested the Pressure WG to continue work to implement this new approach (para 4.19), including through a possible expert workshop, and take into account the comments provided by the Contracting Parties and the need to make the next CART assessment - though remaining a scientific project- more user friendly.

4.21 The Meeting encouraged all Contracting Parties to be involved in the PLC work within the Pressure WG.

4.22 The Meeting requested PRESSURE-4 to consider the reference contained in the Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration regarding an extra reduction in basins where reduction targets have already been fulfilled, to be accounted for in other basins, and if the assessment of inputs by major rivers could be provided.

4.23 The Meeting agreed to discuss the progress in implementation of the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme at HELCOM 37-2016.

4.24 The Meeting noted the start-up of the project on operationalization of the nutrient reduction scheme follow-up system (MAI-CART OPER, 2015-2017) including the outcomes of the project workshop on 1 December 2015 and approved the implementation plan of the project (document 4-11, Attachment 3 and document 4-11-Add.1) and requested that also a user manual is prepared by the project.

4.25 The Meeting took note of the clarification by the Secretariat that the project should be seen as contributing to the overall operationalisation of MAI/CART assessments and that it focuses on automation of certain steps in the assessments, improving overall quality of the assessment result and transparency of the assessment procedures.

4.26 The Meeting pointed out that the Pressure WG should be actively involved in the project coordination. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to consider contributing financially to bridge the gap in the project budget which would otherwise need to be covered from the HELCOM budget.

4.27 The Meeting agreed and endorsed the draft HELCOM Recommendations on waterborne pollution input assessment and on monitoring of airborne pollution input (document 4-6) and agreed to submit them to HELCOM 37-2016 for adoption pending the confirmation by Germany by **8 January 2016**.

4.28 The Meeting decided on removing of the JCP Hot Spots Nos. 87.1, 99.2, 82, 83.1, 84 and 85 from the list of JCP Hot Spots (document 4-4) and congratulated Poland for the achievement.

4.29 The Meeting considered the draft roadmap to build a knowledge base on underwater noise (document 4-21) and the revised version based on the comments by Russia (document 4-21 Rev.1), noting that the draft was also considered by HELCOM MARITIME 15-2015, which should be made more clear on the cover page.

4.30 The Meeting approved the roadmap as included in **Annex 2**, pending clarification of the study reservation by Russia by **31 January 2016**.

4.31 The Meeting noted that underwater noise is a crosscutting issue and should continue to be also considered by the Maritime group.

4.32 The Meeting took note of the progress in setting up the registry for impulsive underwater noise (document 4-22) and recognized the opportunity to join the OSPAR regional registry being set up in ICES with minimal cost, allowing timely fulfillment of the Ministerial commitment.

4.33 The Meeting agreed that HELCOM joins the OSPAR registry of impulsive noise and on the need to clarify hosting of the database and condition of hosting and noted that the work on reporting details is still ongoing and is aimed to be finalized by HELCOM EN-Noise in close cooperation with OSPAR and ICES.

Fish

4.34 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the HELCOM Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 3-2015), Warsaw, Poland, 26-27 November 2015 (document 4-35).

4.35 The Meeting agreed on an option for HELCOM to be involved as a partner in the SUSFISHING project for restoration of sea trout rivers in the Baltic Sea (presentation 4 from HELCOM FISH 3-2015) to support activities of the Task Force on migratory fish species.

4.36 The Meeting approved organizing the next meeting of the Fish Group during the first week of May 2016.

4.37 The Meeting stressed the importance of close cooperation between HELCOM and other organisations working with fish and/or fisheries, in particular BALTFISH, as HELCOM can provide scientific input.

4.38 The Meeting welcomed the information that Estonia is willing to host FISH 5 if it will take place during 2016.

4.39 The Meeting took note of the draft HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea as editorially revised intersessionally (document 4-10).

4.40 The Meeting considered and discussed the submission from Denmark regarding the draft Recommendation (document 4-37) with a proposal for alternative wordings to point 1c iii of the Annex of the Recommendation.

4.41 The Meeting agreed on the wording for points 1c iii of the Annex “...avoid or minimize negative impacts on the current status of the environment and aim at not jeopardizing the achievement of good ecological/environmental/chemical status of the area affected, and...”.

4.42 The Meeting agreed further to change, for reasons of consistency, the wording in point 3 (page 3) in the main text of the draft Recommendation as follows: “...in an overall endeavour by the Contracting Parties to keep inputs ~~to~~ within Maximum Allowable Inputs for nitrogen and phosphorus for the Baltic Sea basins...”.

4.43 The Meeting recalled that the FISH 3-2015 meeting had agreed to propose a follow up to the HELCOM Recommendation by developing a draft document on BAT/BEP for sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region in a HELCOM Fish Correspondence Group and noted that the Chair of FISH Group proposed the following way forward:

- that given the heterogeneous nature of aquaculture a scoping/matrix approach could be a good start;
- variability in technology and geography (differences between sub-regions) are important dimensions in the scoping exercise.

4.42 The Meeting took note of the comment by Finland that their reservation on the Recommendation follow-up as expressed in FISH 3-2015 remains.

4.44 The Meeting discussed the follow up of the Recommendation, once adopted, regarding BAT/BEP for aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region and noted the different views of the Contracting Parties on the the approach and further process in developing BAT/BEP.

4.45 The Meeting agreed on the need to clarify this issue before adoption of the Recommendation and agreed to establish a correspondence under the lead of [the HELCOM FISH Chair] to pave the way to be able to agree on the Recommendation and its follow-up at HELCOM 37-2016.

4.46 The Meeting agreed that HELCOM 37-2016 should reconsider the draft Recommendation based on the outcome of the correspondence work.

4.47 The Meeting took note of the comment by FEAP that involving the aquaculture industry in the work on HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture is highly appreciated, the regional aquaculture BAT/BEP process should be industry driven and that the economic feasibility of measures should be included in the work.

4.48 The Meeting noted the comment by CCB that developing regional HELCOM BAT/BEP documentation is a key element based on fundamental principles of 1992 Helsinki Convention. The Meeting also took note of the information on [CCB Seminar on Land-based aquaculture systems](#), held on 11-12 November 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden, as a first step of involving industry in development of BAT/BEP.

4.49 The Meeting took note of the information by the EU, as a follow up to FISH 3-2015 considerations on international agreements for the management of eel stock, that an eel management plan has been prepared by Poland and the Russian Federation and that, following the scientific assessment of the plan, the European Commission will consider approving the plan as it is expected to contribute to the improvement of the stock status and its recovery.

Gear

4.50 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 12th Meeting of the Group for the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach (GEAR 12-2015), Warsaw, Poland, 29-30 October 2015 (document 4-2).

4.51 The Meeting noted that 14 future HELCOM actions are proposed as the result of the coordination efforts relating to national PoMs that have taken place in the process of documenting regional coordination of programmes of measures (document 4-26). These proposed actions are new activities to be taken forward by the HELCOM working groups, as a follow-up of BSAP.

4.52 The Meeting took note of the information on the amended Action 11 and 12 related to the Fish Group (document 4-36) and that they substitute the corresponding actions in document 4-26.

4.53 The Meeting took note that Germany here, as in other places and due to a formal study reservation, is not in a position to agree on any of the proposed future actions.

4.54 The Meeting noted that several Contracting Parties expressed their concern about the German formal study reservations under the HOD 49 Agenda (4.27, 4.53, 4.55, 4.94, 4.124, 4.128) and its paralyzing effects on HELCOM work, and about the HELCOM MSFD-coordination that has been requested by the EU, being jeopardised, and invited Germany to explain what the substantive issues at stake are regarding the individual documents in order to allow for a constructive way forward. Following that request, Germany informed the meeting as follows: The reason for the study reservations relates to ongoing national discussions between different levels of administration (Federal coastal states and federation) about the national consultation procedures concerning regional work. Until those procedures are not clarified, Germany is not in a position to formally endorse documents which – directly or indirectly - relate to the MSFD implementation process. Germany will inform HOD as soon as possible about progress and the possibility to lift its reservations.

4.55 The Meeting noted the specific study reservation by Germany on action 1.

4.56 The Meeting noted the study reservation by Denmark on actions 2 and 9 (document 4-26) and invited Denmark to clarify the position on action 2 by **4 January 2016** and that the clarification on action 9 will be discussed in the planned intersessional activity to elaborate the Recommendation on conservation plan for species (cf. paragraph 4.112)

4.57 The Meeting considered action 14 'To develop a Roadmap for Biofouling management' and could not agree to it in its current form and proposed that it could be reconsidered after further development. The Meeting furthermore requested a clarification if the action is aimed at "outlining the steps towards reducing the risk of spread of non-indigenous species" (as indicated in document 4-25) or "environmentally friendly and safe TBT-free antifouling systems on ships" (as indicated in document 4-36).

4.58 Taking note of the German (c.f. para 4.53 and 4.55 above) and Danish (c.f. para 4.56 above) study reservations, the Meeting agreed on the remaining actions as included in document 4-36, with the following specific comments for further consideration:

- Action 2: 'Assess the role of internal nutrient reserves/accumulated nutrients/stored nutrients in the Baltic and potential management measures'. The Meeting agreed on the alternative text proposed by Sweden.
- Action 11: 'Adjustment or utilization of EU data collection framework to retrieve data for assessments and the development of management measures related to by-catch of species'. The Meeting noted the proposal from Finland to fine-tune the text of Action 11 to properly reflect the EU Common Fisheries Policy Data Collection Framework (DCF) process and invited Finland to submit the proposal to Lead country Poland. The Meeting invited the Secretariat to consult with the European Commission to clarify aspects of the action related to the DCF.
- Action 13: 'Regional monitoring programme on non-indigenous species in the Baltic Sea'. The Meeting noted the view of Germany to cooperate with OSPAR on the development of the monitoring programmes.

4.59 The Meeting noted that the action on regional risk assessment of shipping (Action 5) and joint principles for environmental targets of sea-bed habitats (Action 10) are already agreed actions.

4.60 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to identify responsible HELCOM working groups for each action.

4.61 The Meeting took note of the presentation of the HOLAS II project by the Secretariat (document 4-5, **Presentation 1**). The Meeting noted that several project activities until mid-2017 are taken forward through projects co-financed by the EU, more specifically the BalticBOOST project and TAPAS project. The Meeting welcomed the recent decision on financing TAPAS (document 4-8).

4.62 The Meeting welcomed the progress of the HOLAS II project and acknowledged the need for Contracting Parties to ensure national expertise and deliver required data according to the timetable of the project.

4.63 The Meeting exchanged views on the planned consultations within countries with regard to HELCOM assessments to be used for other reporting obligations and expressed the view that this issue requires careful consideration in order to maintain the scientific quality of the HELCOM assessment products.

4.64 The Meeting noted that a questionnaire will be circulated to GEAR contacts to clarify national requirements on the consultation process.

4.65 The Meeting noted the ongoing work of the European Environment Agency to develop a European marine assessment under MSFD Article 20.3b, which is to be carried out in coordination with RSCs and furthermore noted that Contracting Parties are invited to provide their views on the European marine assessment and how the cooperation between EEA and HELCOM can be structured, including the tentative need for resources for such cooperation.

4.66 The Meeting approved organizing the next meeting of the GEAR group on 10-11 February 2016 in Berlin, Germany.

4.67 The Meeting took note of the 'Draft Joint documentation of regional coordination of programmes of measures in the Baltic Sea' and recognized that it is the result of the coordination undertaken by Contracting Parties in relation to their Programmes of measures (document 4-25).

4.68 The Meeting noted proposed revisions to the document by Russia as well as Germany (document 4-27) and that Finland intends to provide some editorial improvements by **11 January 2016**.

4.69 The Meeting endorsed in principle the "Joint documentation of the regional coordination of the programme of measures" noting a study reservation on the document by Russia and invited Russia to clarify the study reservation by **11 January 2016**.

4.70 The Meeting agreed to delegate the deliberation of remaining comments and finalization of the text in the Joint documentation to GEAR 13-2015 and requested GEAR to update the document to reflect the finalization of national programmes of measures (by 28 February 2016 at the latest).

4.71 The Meeting clarified that as soon as GEAR has finalised the joint documentation, it can be made available for reporting under the MSFD, for those HELCOM countries which are also EU member states.

4.72 The Meeting agreed to keep and update Annex 3 of the draft Joint documentation on Programmes of measures to reflect the outcome of the meeting regarding future actions (paragraphs 4.51, 4.52, 4.57-4.59), taking note of the study reservations raised at the Meeting (paragraphs 4.53, 4.55 and 4.565).

4.73 The Meeting considered the statement by CCB on funding the EU MSFD Programs of Measures (document 4-17) and discussed relevant steps to fully utilize available funding while devising joint and coherent implementation of the EU MSFD and HELCOM BSAP.

Maritime and Response

4.74 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the 15th Meeting of the HELCOM Maritime Working Group (MARITIME 15-2015), Klaipeda, Lithuania, 23-25 November 2015 (documents 4-30 and 4-30-Corr.1).

4.75 The Meeting congratulated Ms. Anna Petersson, Sweden, Ms. Natalia Kutaeva, Russia, and Mr. Jorma Kämäräinen, Finland, for re-election as chair and vice-chairs, respectively, of the Maritime Working Group for the next two-year period (2016-2017).

4.76 The Meeting approved organizing the next meeting of the Maritime Working Group during the week 5-9 September 2016.

4.77 The Meeting adopted the Terms of Reference for the Joint HELCOM-OSPAR Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions (HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST) for 2015-2016 (document 4-31) with the information that HELCOM considers the footnote as deleted.

- 4.78 The Meeting took note that the 2004 IMO Ballast Water Management Convention is very close to entry into force as on the basis of preliminary calculations by the IMO Secretariat only a fraction of a percentage is missing from the remaining unfulfilled criteria on ratified flag state tonnage.
- 4.79 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM and OSPAR have carried out substantial work on preparing for the implementation of the BWM Convention in the Baltic and North-East Atlantic regions and noted that with entry into force of the Convention the results will likely collect increased interest from other regions.
- 4.80 The Meeting noted that one of the central products is the HELCOM-OSPAR Joint Harmonised Procedure, a system to implement regulation A-4 (exemptions) of the BWMC, and that the online risk assessment tool would benefit from enhancements to make it more user friendly.
- 4.81 The Meeting took note that a revision to HELCOM Recommendation 25/7 has been endorsed by MARITIME and will be submitted to HELCOM 37-2016 for adoption.
- 4.82 The Meeting took note that Sweden relies mainly on criminal sanctions, which limits a practical application of harmonized level of administrative fines to be considered by the ongoing revision of HELCOM Recommendation 19/14.
- 4.83 The Meeting took note of the draft Roadmap for designating a NECA in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea (document 4-29) as well as the NECA-related outcome of MARITIME 15-2015 as presented by Demark (**Annex 3**).
- 4.84 The Meeting took note of the statement by Germany, supported by WWF, that the postponement of NECA submission dates and effective date in the NECA Roadmap to 2021 is not their first option but can be accepted for the sake of compromise.
- 4.85 The Meeting considered further steps how to proceed with the NECA issue and with the draft roadmap and welcomed that Denmark will submit a revised version, based on the outcome of MARITIME 15-2015, to HELCOM 37-2016 for adoption.
- 4.86 The Meeting took note that national consultations are still ongoing in Finland, and therefore, Finland will inform on their position on the timing of NECA at HELCOM 37-2016.
- 4.87 The Meeting noted that Finland remains the only country that is not ready yet to decide on the timing of the Baltic NECA, in parallel to the North Sea NECA.
- 4.88 The Meeting took note of the statement by the EU that it is important to keep in mind appropriate procedures in Contracting Parties that are EU Member States when considering the different steps under the NECA roadmap.
- 4.89 The Meeting considered the proposal by Sweden for financing model for the maintenance of the Seatrack Web (STW) (document 4-16).
- 4.90 The Meeting took note that with regard to this financing scheme for Finland, Lithuania, Germany and Latvia it is the only option that contributions from national institutions are paid directly to SMHI hosting the tool.
- 4.91 The Meeting took note of the following comments by Contracting Parties on the financing of the STW tool:
- Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and Germany can support the contributions allocated to them in the document 4-16.
 - Latvia needs to consider more the basis of calculating the contribution.
 - Russia is not prepared to participate as Russia is using another model and is not in favour of using HELCOM budget for the scheme.
 - Poland and Estonia need more time for national consultations.
- 4.92 The Meeting invited Poland, Estonia and Latvia to clarify their position to Sweden as soon as possible.

4.93 The Meeting adopted the proposed core pressure indicator on oil spills affecting the marine environment (document 4-9) with the change that Figure 1 (page 5) should include both flight hours and estimates of volume of spills, and pending the confirmation by Germany by end of this year.

4.94 The Meeting approved the proposal for HELCOM Project on Maritime Assessment (**Annex 4**) to enable involvement of the needed expertise and took note of the outline of the Maritime Assessment (document 4-23). The Meeting took note of the Russian proposal to cover the positive long-term trends such as the significant decrease in illegal spills in the Baltic Sea 1989-2015 and reduction of emission of sulphur from shipping.

4.95 The Meeting took note of the Baltic LINes project to be implemented 2016-2019 (document 4-34).

Follow-up system for HELCOM agreements

4.96 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the Secretariat of the draft assessment of accomplishment of HELCOM actions implemented at a regional level and the test case of an action implemented at the national level, carried out by the Secretariat as requested by GEAR 12-2015 (document 4-15, 4-15 Att 1, **Presentation 2**).

4.97 The Meeting recalled that the system covers actions committed under the Baltic Sea Action Plan and 2010 and 2013 Ministerial Declarations as well as HELCOM Recommendations adopted since the BSAP.

4.98 The Meeting noted that the evaluation criteria for the follow-up of actions have been reviewed by HELCOM Working Groups during 2015. The Meeting further noted that the aim is to create a web-based implementation database with possibility to extract results and to visualize results based on a set of pre-defined figures and that the technical completion of the system is supported by resources from the EU co-financed BalticBOOST project.

4.99 The Meeting welcomed the system as a transparent way to follow progress of accomplishment of HELCOM commitments and was of the view that it will simplify the reporting by Contracting Parties.

4.100 The Meeting noted that the WWF welcomed the development of a transparent follow-up of HELCOM agreements.

4.101 The Meeting considered the proposal to report actions implemented at the national level by mid-February 2016 with the view to presenting first exemplary draft results as progress report to HELCOM 37-2016. The Meeting noted that a majority of Contracting Parties will be able to provide reporting of national actions within this time-frame while other Contracting Parties were not in a position to guarantee reporting on all themes by this time.

4.102 The Meeting agreed on a step-wise approach on the reporting where two themes would be reported by mid-February 2016 and two themes by end of February 2016 and invited the countries to finalize the reporting according to this time-table as far as possible. For one specific theme with the fewest number of actions, still to be identified, all Contracting Parties are requested to prioritize reporting by mid-February in order to be able to present results at HELCOM 37-2016.

4.103 The Meeting discussed two options of visualizing implementation of national actions and was of the view that they could be visualized by displaying accomplishment of individual actions by all Contracting Parties in the same figure (cf. figure 3, document 4-15), or by preparing web-pages listing country-wise accomplishment of actions. The Meeting noted that Lithuania preferred the first option while Denmark will return with a clarification on the preferred visualization within a week.

4.104 The Meeting noted the comment by Russia on the importance of clarifying the information contained in document 4-15 and 4-15-Att.1 before making it available to the general public.

4.105 The Meeting took note that Denmark might come back regarding the criteria for assessing accomplishment by mid-February 2016 (by Gear meeting).

4.106 The Meeting noted that Sweden wished to see a possibility to seek for synergies with identifying reporting requirements as under e.g. EU directives and to the EEA.

State and Conservation

4.107 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Third Meeting of the State and Conservation Working Group (STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015), Helsinki, Finland, 9-13 November 2015, as presented by the co-Chairs Mr. Urmas Lips and Ms. Penina Blankett (document 4-7), and noted:

- that reporting to the COMBINE data base is missing from some Contracting Parties and needs to be submitted as soon as possible to ensure access to data for the 2nd HELCOM holistic assessment;
- that a joint EUSBSR PA Hazards/HELCOM background report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea is being finalized and will be presented at a stakeholder conference in Copenhagen on 15 December 2015;
- that State and Conservation agreed on the draft Terms of Reference of the HELCOM expert network on hazardous substances;
- that State and Conservation supported the proposal to establish a HELCOM expert network on eutrophication and agreed on draft Terms of Reference;
- that the modernized HELCOM MPA database has been published and that the methodology for the assessment of ecological coherence was discussed and agreed by the Meeting.

4.108 The Meeting agreed to convene STATE & CONSERVATION 4-2015 on 11-15 April 2016, in Germany, and STATE & CONSERVATION 5-2015 on 7-11 November 2016, tentatively in Estonia.

4.109 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Lead Country Germany on the draft HELCOM Recommendation on Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM red list (document 4-12).

4.110 The Meeting recalled that all Contracting Parties but Denmark were ready to adopt the final draft HELCOM Recommendation on 'Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List' at HELCOM 36-2015. The Meeting took note of the information that while intersessional consultations have taken place, Denmark's study reservation remains and furthermore took note that the Danish national concerns are related to the costs of developing species specific conservation plans and evaluating the red listed species in EIA-like procedures as well as questioning the efficiency of protecting species that are naturally rare such as red listed species in the Kattegat area (documents 4-38 and 4-39).

4.111 The Meeting regretted that the current draft Recommendation would need further elaboration to accommodate the Danish concerns while still being acceptable to all Contracting Parties and that this Meeting is not in position to agree on the draft Recommendation.

4.112 The Meeting welcomed the willingness of Germany to continue leading the finalization of the Recommendation and the offer to continue the further elaboration of the text bilaterally with Denmark and *via* consultation of all Contracting Parties, e.g. through written procedure or an online meeting, as appropriate, with the view to reaching an agreement in time for adopting the Recommendation at HELCOM 37-2016. All Contracting Parties will be consulted on time e.g. through written procedure or the organization of an online meeting as appropriate. Against that background the Meeting, furthermore, agreed to start with the second Recommendation on "Conservation of Baltic Sea underwater biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes threatened according to the HELCOM Red List" only upon finalization of the first Recommendation.

4.113 The Meeting requested that in parallel to considering the Recommendation on conservation of threatened species, the action to support conservation of Baltic species and biotopes/habitats categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red List (action 9, document 4-26) is taken up with a possibility to start work on some species/habitats/biotopes.

4.114 The Meeting considered the draft Recommendation 'Co-operation and coordination of research vessel based monitoring in off-shore areas and procedures for granting permits for monitoring and research activities' as presented by the co-Chair of State and Conservation (document 4-14).

4.115 The Meeting took note of the following comments and revised the Recommendation accordingly:

- to place the reference to UNCLOS as paragraph 3 of the pre-amble;
- to remove reference to UNCLOS Article 247 and 248 in paragraph d);
- to phrase paragraph d) according to the following: "to facilitate granting of permits, to carry out monitoring and research activities in the framework of the HELCOM coordinated monitoring programme in the exclusive economic zones, fishing zones, continental shelves or territorial waters, aiming at within six weeks from the time of the request."

4.116 The Meeting took note of the of the study reservation by Russia on paragraph c, since granting of one year permits may not be in accordance with national legislation, and that Russia will clarify the position by **17 December 2015**.

4.117 Taking note of the study reservation by Russia, the Meeting endorsed in principle the draft Recommendation for adoption by HELCOM 37-2016.

4.118 The Meeting agreed to establish a HELCOM intersessional expert network on eutrophication and agreed to the draft Terms of Reference as contained in document 4-13.

4.119 The Meeting welcomed the outcome of the EUTRO-OPER project and took note that the pre-core indicators developed by EUTRO-OPER will not be finalized by end of the project and that in order to finalize them Lead Countries are needed to ensure their continued development as well as resources for modelling to develop GES-boundaries for three of the indicators. The Meeting noted the view of Finland, Germany and Sweden to continue the project in 2016 with support of a part-time project manager. The Meeting agreed to continue the project for a limited period 3-6 months and welcomed the offer by Germany to contribute to the work financially.

4.120 The Meeting took note of the view of the Chair of the Pressure WG that it would be beneficial to link the work of the RedCore and EUTRO-OPER project.

4.121 The Meeting took note of the working arrangement for continued development of indicators (document 4-20) and recalled that it is based on a Lead Country approach and a more continuous engagement of HELCOM expert groups, networks and projects, as agreed by HOD 48-2015. The Meeting noted that a key task for HELCOM experts groups, network and project is to carry out the updating of indicator evaluations for core indicator reports as well as for the 2nd holistic assessment.

4.122 The Meeting noted that Germany is not in a position to be in the lead on the cumulative impact indicators, and its repeated view that the core indicators on nutritional and reproductive status of marine mammals are not suitable to assess the health of marine mammals.

4.123 The Meeting encouraged Contracting Parties to take the lead on development of indicators where Lead country offers are lacking, noting that this is in particular the case for indicators related to hazardous substances and benthic communities and habitats.

4.124 Noting the study reservation by Germany, the Meeting agreed, while taking into account a respective German reservation (see para 4.54), to further consider the core indicator on incidental by-catch under the Fish Group as well as the State and Conservation Working Group as regards defining the maximum allowable catch of species.

4.125 The Meeting welcomed that Denmark is lifting the study reservation on GES boundaries for the core indicators on Abundance of waterbirds in the wintering season, Abundance of waterbirds in the breeding season, Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), Perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS), Polybrominated Diphenyl, Ethers (PBDE), Metals (Cd, Pb, Hg) and Radioactive substances (document 4-33).

4.126 The Meeting noted that for indicators included in Annex 1 to document 4-33, Denmark suggests that further work is carried out in order to adjust them to be suitable also to Danish waters. The Meeting invited Denmark to take an active part in the discussions and meetings being set up by Lead countries and

relevant HELCOM experts groups and network during 2016 to clarify the views on the indicators and to contribute with data to test and develop the indicators.

4.127 The Meeting requested the Secretariat to continue cooperation with OSPAR e.g. in the planned development of databases for biodiversity elements.

4.128 The Meeting took note that Germany is not in a position to lift their reservation on the core indicators due to matters of national administration (cf paragraph 4.54).

4.129 The Meeting took note of the ongoing ecological coherence assessment of the Baltic Sea MPA network and the report planned to be finalized by HELCOM 37-2016 (document 4-28).

4.130 The Meeting considered the information by CCB on pending issues from HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015 (document 4-19):

- proposal to consider the revision of HELCOM Assessment on Marine Sediment Extraction in the Baltic Sea, as an input to the Holistic Assessment,

- proposal to relevant HELCOM groups to consider developing an international agreement to protect European eel population under the CMS Convention as current legal frameworks are not enough.

4.131 The Meeting noted the support expressed by Sweden to consider all potential measures to protect the eel, including the proposal for development of such international agreement to protect the European eel population.

4.132 The Meeting noted the support from Sweden to the CCB concerns of the state of the eel population.

4.133 The Meeting took note of the concerns expressed by CCB on the state of nature protection and threats to Baltic MPAs within the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland, as exemplified by cases of Kurgalskiy Nature Reserve and Kroshtadtskaya Kolonia (document 4-18). The Meeting noted that Lithuania, Finland and Sweden welcomed the document and were concerned about the issues raised by CCB.

4.134 The Meeting took note of the information from Russia that information could be shared by Russia on the issues of MPAs in the Gulf of Finland if requested.

Agri

4.135 The Meeting took note of the information on intersessional activities of the HELCOM Group on Sustainable Agricultural Practices (Agri) (document 4-24) and that the work on both priorities of the Agri Group (nutrient accounting on farm level and standards for nutrient content in manure) has been started and that the outcomes of the related workshops as well as next steps will be considered by AGRI 3-2016, as appropriate.

4.136 The Meeting supported HELCOM involvement as a project partner in the planned project on manure standards led by Finland and invited potential project partners from the Contracting Parties to contact Luke (sari.luostarinen@luke.fi) as soon as possible.

4.137 The Meeting thanked Estonia for offering to host the next Agri Group meeting (AGRI 3-2016) in the first week of April 2016.

4.138 The Meeting took note of the information by CCB that the seminar devoted to manure management in the Baltic Sea region in the context of industrial animal farming will be held in Vitebsk, Belarus 17 December 2015.

MSP WG

4.139 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the Eleventh Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015), Riga, Latvia, 30 September-1 October 2015 (document 4-1).

4.140 The Meeting took note that the Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea has been agreed by the Working Group and requested,

to consider the conservation aspects in accordance with the ecosystem approach, that the guidelines are consulted with State and Conservation WG before the adoption by HOD.

4.141 The Meeting approved organizing of the next meeting of the Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 12-2016) tentatively on 25-26 February 2016 in Poland, and noted that a workshop on MSP is planned by Poland to be held back-to-back with the meeting.

4.142 The Meeting took note that the work of the newly established Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group (BSR MSP Data ESG) has started with the first meeting held on 1-2 October 2015, in Riga, Latvia.

Agenda Item 5 HELCOM institutional and organisational matters

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3

5.1 The Meeting took note of the Audit Report and the Financial Statement of the Helsinki Commission for the financial period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 as well as of the explanatory memorandum (document 5-3) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit them to HELCOM 37-2016 in order to have the accountables officially discharged from responsibility.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the recommendation included in the Audit Report, decided to come back to this issue by HELCOM 37-2016 and took note of the offer by Finland to support the Secretariat in investigations.

5.3 The Meeting considered the draft budget for the financial period 2016-2017 (document 5-1) and advised the Executive Secretary to submit the draft budget to HELCOM 37-2016 for official adoption, pending the clarification of the study reservations by Lithuania and Poland as soon as possible taking into account the submission deadline of 60 days before the Commission meeting (c.f. Financial Rule 2.3).

5.4 The Meeting took note of the request by Russia and Latvia to further clarify how equal share is reflected in the proposed budget. The Meeting took note of the explanation by the Executive Secretary recalling that as endorsed by HELCOM 36-2015, the equal share contributions for the period 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 as required by the Helsinki Convention are based on the financial period 2014-2015, which was the reference year for the negotiations with Latvia and Lithuania on the road map to reach equal contribution. The Meeting requested the Executive Secretary to provide additional clarification as may be needed by HELCOM 37-2016.

5.5 The Meeting considered and endorsed the draft budget estimate for 2017-2018 (document 5-2), pending clarification of study reservations by Lithuania and Poland (c.f. paragraph 5.3).

5.6 The Meeting took note of the request by Estonia to the Secretariat to include estimates of external contribution from projects into the draft budget tables to be submitted to HELCOM 37-2016.

5.7 The Meeting took note of the submission of the observer applications by PlasticsEurope and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to HELCOM 37-2016.

5.8 The Meeting was concerned about late submission and high number of documents to the working group meetings and HOD 49 meeting that cannot be properly coordinated anymore within different governmental systems and such short deadlines. The Meeting agreed to review the status of HELCOM's streamlining, including organizational and work flows, in HOD 50-2016 next June.

Agenda Item 6 Any other business

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, 6-10, 6-11, 6-12

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the planned activity in 2016 and 2017 of the oil company Lukoil in the continental shelf of the Russian Federation in the Baltic Sea (document 6-6).

6.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the XVII International Environmental Forum «Baltic Sea Day», to be held on 22-23 March 2016 in Saint-Petersburg, Russia (document 6-11) and invited Contracting Parties to contribute to the programme of the meeting.

- 6.3 The Meeting took note of the information on European Maritime Day, to be held in Turku, Finland, on 18-20 May 2016 (document 6-10) where also HELCOM activities can be presented.
- 6.4 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on the EUSBSR Strategy Forum to take place in Stockholm on 8-9 November 2016.
- 6.5 The Meeting took note of the information on upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in late 2015 and in 2016 (document 6-9) and invited Contracting Parties to inform on updates to the meeting list if needed.
- 6.6 The Meeting took note of and welcomed the information by Sweden on plans to replenish the BSAP Fund.
- 6.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden on reinforced work against dumping in the Baltic Sea (document 6-12) and supported closer cooperation between HELCOM and London Convention. The Meeting took note that the London Convention and Protocol are IMO agreements, and agreed that HELCOM, being an observer to IMO, should be more active within this field of IMO work as HELCOM has much to offer to these global processes.
- 6.8 The Meeting welcomed the information that Finland is in the process of ratifying the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972.
- 6.9 The Meeting took note of the information on the publicity for the next HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and approved the progress report on communication update (document 6-5).
- 6.10 The Meeting took note of the upcoming process of implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the Contracting Parties' perspective and on a possible role of HELCOM in this process (document 6-2).
- 6.11 The Meeting took note of the information on the joint UNEP/EC expert workshop on Regional Ocean Governance, organized on 9-10 November 2015 in Brussels (document 6-7).
- 6.12 The Meeting took note of the WWF Report "All Hands on Deck: Setting Course to a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Baltic Sea Region" (document 6-3).
- 6.13 The Meeting took note of the CCB Report on climate change in the Baltic Sea region, with a focus on biodiversity, and policy recommendations, (document 6-4) and invited the Contracting Parties to make use of those documents in national and regional work to protect the Baltic Sea marine environment.
- 6.14 The Meeting took note of the information on the Baltic Sea City Accelerator, a platform for public and private actors to explore and co-create innovative approaches to local water and wastewater management challenges, and meet sustainability objectives (document 6-1), which is a follow-up of the report commissioned by the Zennström Philanthropies, presented at HELCOM 36-2015.
- 6.15 The Meeting took note of the information on on-going projects within HELCOM (document 6-8).
- 6.16 Welcoming the new Danish Head of Delegation Anne Mette Hjortebjerg Lund the Meeting warmly thanked former Danish HOD Tonny Niilonen for his commitment and dedication in the HELCOM work for the Baltic Sea HELCOM work since years and wished him all the best for his retirement days.
- 6.17 The Meeting took note of the statement by the European Union as included in **Annex 5**.
- 6.18 The Meeting took note of the information by the Chair that in the beginning of 2015 OECD agreed to develop a Nitrogen Assessment on a global scale and that Estonia is prepared to facilitate closer cooperation between HELCOM work in the Baltic and the work within OECD.

Agenda Item 7 Next meeting(s)

Documents: 7-1

7.1 The Meeting agreed to hold the next meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HOD 50-2016) on 15-16 June 2016 and welcomed the offer of Estonia to host the meeting.

Agenda Item 8 Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 8-1

8.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 8-1. The final Outcome, incorporating the comments by the Meeting, has been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair and made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

Annex 1 List of Participants

*) Head of Delegation

| Name | Organization | Email address | Telephone |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Chair | | | |
| Harry Liiv | Estonian Ministry of the Environment | harry.liiv@envir.ee | +372 6262850 |
| Denmark | | | |
| Anne-Mette Hjortebjerg Lund *) | Danish Nature Agency | anhlu@nst.dk | +45 4178 2038 |
| Estonia | | | |
| Silver Vahtra *) | MoE of Estonia | Silver.Vahtra@envir.ee | +372 53225036 |
| Urmas Lips Co-Chair of HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION | Marine Systems Institute, Tallinn University of Technology | urmas.lips@msi.ttu.ee | +372 6204304 |
| Rene Reisner | Ministry of the Environment | rene.reisner@envir.ee | +372 6262855 |
| European Union | | | |
| Matjaž Malgaj *) | European Commission, DG Environment | matjaz.malgaj@ec.europa.eu | +32 2 298 8674 |
| Clémentine Leroy | European Commission | clementine.leroy@ec.europa.eu | +32 2 2950944 |
| Finland | | | |
| Eeva-Liisa Poutanen *) | Ministry of the Environment | eeva-liisa.poutanen@ymparisto.fi | +358 2952 50237 |
| Heikki Lehtinen | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | heikki.lehtinen@mmm.fi | |
| Penina Blankett Co-Chair of HELCOM STATE&CONSERVATION | Ministry of the Environment | penina.blankett@ymparisto.fi | +358 2952 50058 |
| Germany | | | |
| Monika Luxem-Fritsch *) | Federal Ministry for the Environment | monika.luxem-fritsch@bmub.bund.de | +49 228 99 305 2781 |
| Latvia | | | |
| Baiba Zasa *) | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development | baiba.zasa@varam.gov.lv | +371 67026910 |
| Lithuania | | | |
| Agnė Kniežaitė-Gofmanė *) | Ministry of Environment | agne.kniezaite-gofmane@am.lt | +370 70663521 |
| Poland | | | |
| Adriana Dembowska | National Water Management Authority | adriana.dembowska@kzgw.gov.pl | +48 22 37 20 215 |
| Joanna Ignasiak | Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation | joanna.ignasiak@mir.gov.pl | +48 22 630 1696 |
| Marcin Rucinski via Skype | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | marcin.rucinski@minrol.gov.pl | +32 2 7804 217 |
| Russia | | | |
| Natalia Tretiakova *) | Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation | nataliat@mnr.gov.ru | +7 4992547947 |
| Natalia Kutaeva Vice-Chair of HELCOM MARITIME | Marine Rescue Service of Rosmorrechflot (MRS) | kutaevang@morspas.com | +7 495 626 1806 |
| Leonid Korovin | StPPO Ecology and business | korovinl@helcom.ru | +7 812 4309305 |
| Dmitry Otorochkin | Embassy of the Russian Federation in Helsinki | rusembassy@co.inet.fi | |

| Sweden | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Anders Alm *) | Ministry of Environment and Energy | anders.alm@regeringskansliet.se | +46 27008726 |
| Laura Piriz | SwAM | laura.piriz@havochvatten.se | +46 106986000 |
| Linda Rydell | SwAM | linda.rydell@havochvatten.se | |
| Chair of HELCOM PRESSURE | | | |
| Lars Sonesten | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences | Lars.Sonesten@slu.se | +46 18673007 |
| Observers | | | |
| BFFE | | | |
| Airi Kulmala | BFFE | airi.kulmala@mtk.fi | +358 400 755454 |
| BSPC | | | |
| Martina Kramer | Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference | martina.kramer@landtag-mv.de | +49 3855251538 |
| CCB | | | |
| Mikhail Durkin | Coalition Clean Baltic | mikhail.durkin@ccb.se | +46 739770793 |
| FEAP | | | |
| Anu-Maria Sandelin | Finnish Fish Farmers Association | anu-maria.sandelin@kalankasvatus.fi | |
| JNF | | | |
| Marjukka Porvari *) | John Nurminen Foundation | marjukka.porvari@jnffoundation.fi | +358 41549 1535 |
| Miina Mäki | John Nurminen Foundation | miina.maki@jnffoundation.fi | +358 50 5763298 |
| OCEANA | | | |
| Hanna Paulomäki | OCEANA | hpaulomaki@oceana.org | +358 409 311 690 |
| WWF | | | |
| Ottilia Thoreson | WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme | ottilia.thoreson@wwf.se | +46 8 624 74 15 |
| HELCOM Secretariat | | | |
| Monika Stankiewicz Executive Secretary | HELCOM Secretariat | monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi | +358 40 840 2471 |
| Hermann Backer Professional Secretary | Helsinki Commission | hermanni.backer@helcom.fi | +358 46 850 9199 |
| Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky Professional Secretary | HELCOM Secretariat | dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi | +358 40 630 9933 |
| Ulla Li Zweifel Professional Secretary | HELCOM Secretariat | ullali.zweifel@helcom.fi | +358 46 850 9198 |
| Johanna Laurila Information Secretary | HELCOM Secretariat | johanna.laurila@helcom.fi | +358 40 523 8988 |
| Satu Raisamo Administrative Officer | HELCOM Secretariat | satu.raisamo@helcom.fi | +358 46 850 9201 |
| Lena Bergström Project Coordinator | HELCOM Secretariat | lena.bergstrom@helcom.fi | +358 400 803 428 |

Annex 2 Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap 2015-2017

Background information

Anthropogenic noise has potentially harmful effects on the marine environment and the species therein.

Pressure on the marine environment from anthropogenic noise in the Baltic Sea Area needs to be addressed.

Presently piling (impulsive noise) and shipping (continuous noise) are considered to constitute the two major sources of underwater noise in the Baltic Sea, and more evidence is needed to adequately reflect the scale of the problem in the Baltic Sea.

The 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration commits the Contracting Parties to take further measures, initiatives or efforts to reach a healthy marine ecosystem supporting a prosperous Baltic Sea region, including addressing pollution of the marine environment by litter, as well as impacts on marine organisms from underwater impulsive and continuous noise.

In the 2013 HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration it has been agreed that the level of ambient and distribution of impulsive sounds in the Baltic Sea should not have negative impact on marine life and that human activities that are assessed to result in negative impacts on marine life should be carried out only if relevant mitigation measures are in place, and accordingly as soon as possible and by the end of 2016, using mainly already on-going activities, to

- establish a set of indicators including technical standards which may be used for monitoring ambient and impulsive underwater noise in the Baltic Sea;
- encourage research on the cause and effects of underwater noise on biota;
- map the levels of ambient underwater noise across the Baltic Sea;
- set up a register of the occurrence of impulsive sounds;
- consider regular monitoring on ambient and impulsive underwater noise as well as possible options for mitigation measures related to noise taking into account the ongoing work in IMO on non-mandatory draft guidelines for reducing underwater noise from commercial ships and in CBD context;

This roadmap will support the achievement of the commitments acquired in 2013.

There is a potential need for future revisions of the timetable indicated in this roadmap due to ongoing international, regional and European processes.

Goal

To make every effort to prepare a knowledge base towards a regional action plan on underwater noise in 2017/2018 to meet the objectives of the 2013 Ministerial Meeting, and of the EU MSFD for HELCOM countries being EU members.

Necessary steps

The following steps are perceived as necessary:

1. Knowledge gathering

- 1.1 Compile and review the available knowledge on impact of anthropogenic noise in the Baltic Sea;
- 1.2 Identify and map human activities that are the [main] sources of anthropogenic noise in the Baltic Sea;
- 1.3 Investigate and assess the significance of the sources of anthropogenic noise in the Baltic Sea from e.g. shipping, recreational vessels, ice-breaker vessels, low-frequency sonar, acoustic devices, acoustic

experiments, as well as offshore construction, sand and gravel extraction, drilling, intense low or mid-frequency (Naval) sonar, underwater explosions, seismic surveys.

1.4 Investigate and identify sound sensitive species in the Baltic Sea in order to prioritize needed protection measures.

1.5 Compile information on measures to manage emissions and mitigate relevant impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise proposed and/or implemented internationally.

2. Indicators

2.1 Support Lead Countries in the further development of the pre-core indicator 'Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound' towards its operationalization by taking the following necessary steps:

- propose a concept for a regional monitoring network and propose HELCOM common monitoring guidelines based on the BIAS standards
- develop the assessment protocol based on experiences and information available;
- identify spatial and temporal distribution of sound sensitive species and habitats in the Baltic Sea including sensitive biological areas (spawning, nursery areas);
- develop a concept for the GES-boundary based on the available data.

2.2 Support the Lead Countries in the further development of the candidate indicator 'Distribution in time and place of loud low and mid frequency anthropogenic impulsive sounds' towards its operationalization by taking the following necessary steps:

- cooperate with OSPAR and ICES on the establishment of a joint regional registry of impulsive sound;
- define the elements and mechanisms required for a joint regional registry of impulsive sound activities, including reporting requirements;
- coordinate testing of the regional registry of impulsive sound activities;
- propose a concept for determining sustainable levels of impulsive sound.

3. Explore possibility to determine acceptable levels of underwater noise for marine species

3.1 Based on the compilation of information on impacts of noise (1.1), investigate the possibility to use species specific tolerance to define Good Environmental Status / develop environmental targets based on common principles.

4. Evaluation and follow-up

4.1. Carry out a workshop with all HELCOM members to discuss the Roadmap.

4.2. Update the Roadmap, if necessary, in 2016 e.g. based on applicability of the measures identified under section 1.5 in the Baltic Sea area and the knowledge gathered to be a starting point for initial considerations on suitable measures to be implemented, including a cost effectiveness analysis.

4.3 Assess the implementation of this Roadmap in 2017.

5. Updated working timetable

| Milestone | Date |
|---|--|
| Cooperate with ICES and OSPAR on the establishment of a regional registry of sound | Joint HELCOM EN NOISE, ICG Noise-HELCOM EN Noise - EU TG NOISE in September 2015 |
| Further work on the "Distribution in time and place of loud low and mid frequency anthropogenic impulsive sounds" candidate indicator aiming at its shift to pre-core indicator and subsequently, core indicator | FI and SE informed in PRESSURE 3-2015 |
| Further work on the "Continuous low frequency anthropogenic sound" pre-core indicator aiming at its shift to core indicator | PRESSURE 3-2015 considered |
| Establish a joint regional registry of impulsive noise | By Mid-2016 |
| Workshop with all HELCOM members to discuss the Roadmap | September 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop assessment protocol for ambient noise based on experiences and information available – Test the regional registry using initial data – Identify and map human activities that are the [main] sources of anthropogenic noise in the Baltic Sea | By the end of 2016 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify spatial and temporal distribution and subsequent mapping of sound sensitive species and habitats in the Baltic Sea including sensitive biological areas (spawning, nursery areas) – Explore possibility to use species specific tolerance of underwater noise for defining GES and/or environmental targets | Progress by September 2016, work continued into 2017 |
| Update the Roadmap, if necessary | In 2016 |
| Assess the implementation of this Roadmap | In 2017 |

Annex 3 Statement by Denmark concerning the draft Roadmap for designating a NECA in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea as well as the NECA-related outcome of MARITIME 15-2015

- *As you may recall, the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held on the 20th of May 2010 agreed to work towards submitting a joint NECA application by the Baltic Sea countries to the IMO. However, the date of submission is still outstanding.*
- *After some years of still-stand, the clarification of submission and not least the effective date (also called “compliance date” in the roadmap) of NECA in the Baltic Sea has been re-invigorated in the last year.*
- *Denmark submitted a draft roadmap one year ago to HELCOM Maritime 14. Back then, the Baltic Sea countries expressed their preference for a NECA designation in parallel with the North Sea countries. At the meeting there was broad consensus that a NECA roadmap is valuable and needed and there was general support for a dialogue meeting to be held between the North Sea and the Baltic Sea countries.*
- *The North Sea countries, (which count Sweden, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, the UK, Norway and Denmark) agreed during the spring this year that they are ready to submit their NECA application to the IMO. The North Sea countries are likewise in favor of a NECA designation in parallel with the Baltic Sea and therefore they invited the Baltic Sea countries to a technical meeting in June 2015. At the meeting the timing and procedural steps for a parallel process were discussed. The current roadmap proposal is based on the outcome of that technical meeting.*
- *The roadmap proposes to submit the North Sea and the Baltic Sea NECA applications in parallel to the IMO ahead of the Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting in October 2016 (MEPC 70). If the applications are approved at MEPC 70 they will be forwarded to MEPC 71 for adoption. In the roadmap it is assumed that MEPC 71 will be held in May 2017. The NECA would enter into force at least 16 months later taking us to October 2018.*
- *It is proposed in the roadmap to give the industry three years from the date of adoption to the effective date– which means that the effective date could be on the 1st of June 2020, three years after the adoption at MEPC 71. **However, at HELCOM Maritime 15 it was agreed to adjust the effective date in the roadmap to the 1st of January 2021.** This would imply Tier III emission standards to be applicable only to new ships constructed on or after this date, namely the 1st of January 2021.*
- *At HELCOM Maritime 15 there was general agreement of the necessity to designate and effectuate Tier III requirements in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea. The roadmap and the agreed adjustments have been forwarded to HELCOM HoD in preparation for political decision by the Baltic States, through HELCOM.*
- *We propose from the Danish side that the HoD at its next meeting in June next year – based on an updated NECA application – will decide on the submission of the application to MEPC 70 with compliance date from 1st of January 2021 for the Baltic Sea. Denmark would kindly urge delegations to support this compromise proposal.*
- *The specific timing is expected to be supported by the North Sea countries as well, so that NECA will be established in the two seas at the same time.*
- *If there is support for this roadmap today, we will from the Danish side start the parallel formal decision process among the North Sea countries.*

Annex 4 HELCOM project on the assessment of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea**1. Title of Project: Assessment of Maritime Activities in the Baltic Sea****2. Project Chair:****Project coordinator: Maritime Professional Secretary****3. Proposing Party:**

Contracting Party: _____

Commission: _____

Subsidiary body: _____

Heads of Delegation: _____

Executive Secretary: X _____

4. The body supervising the Project: HELCOM MARITIME**5. Background, targets and activities**

a) Background

The Contracting Parties agreed as part of the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Declaration to comprehensively assess the status, environmental risks and opportunities of maritime activities in the Baltic Sea region within HELCOM by 2016. HELCOM MARITIME 13-2013 considered and approved the work plan and the outline in general for a HELCOM Assessment on Maritime Activities with some additional suggestions. HELCOM RESPONSE 18-2014 took note of the outline and highlighted that it would be useful to provide information on response related matters including oil and chemical transportations.

However, due to lack of funding the Secretariat has not been in the position to start developing the assessment in the originally agreed timeframe in 2014. In 2015 background work could start with the help of related analyses of ship traffic data based on the HELCOM AIS network. These developments have enabled to start the development of the maritime assessment but successful completion by 2016 requires additional resources in the form of project.

A revised outline with some indicative content of the maritime assessment, based on the original 2013-2014 input and other more recent developments, can be found in Attachment 1 of document HOD 49-2015.

The aim is a concise document relying mainly on figures and maps, less on text. Possible publishing format is online pdf with a summary brochure in printed form. In addition, an online data visualisation tool as part of the assessment could be considered for exploring statistics generated from the AIS dataset.

Maritime Assessment will provide input to HOLAS II, including with regard to information on human activities at sea.

b) Targets for the MARAS project

The project will enable supporting the production of the HELCOM Maritime Assessment 2016 via contracting experts as well as production of a summary brochure of the main contents.

The specific expertise and issues where project support is needed will be selected according to need but likely include traffic statistics, shipping accidents, submerged hazardous objects, interactive online visualisation of compiled data as well as lay-out and printing costs of a summary/brochure.

The HELCOM Maritime Assessment 2016 will include the following tangible products which will be supported according to the emerging needs during 2016:

1. Assessment datasets

The maritime assessment will rely heavily on statistics, figures and maps and less on text. A key source of this information is the AIS data on ship movements collected in the region during 2005-2015. Due to this, one of the most work-intensive part of the assessment will be on compilation of reliable datasets.

2. Assessment main publication

The main assessment document will cover all maritime activities and uses of the sea. The main focus will be on the developments during the period 2005-15.

3. Assessment executive summary/brochure

In addition to the main assessment document the aim is to produce a summary publication which will be printed. This publication will try to crystallise the messages emerging from the main document in easily understandable format.

4. Assessment online dimension

The assessment will be based on comprehensive datasets which would benefit from interactive visualization and display.

c) Activities and outline of work

During spring 2016 the project will focus on compiling the needed datasets and writing initial drafts, during summer-early autumn the focus will be on writing and adjusting the draft with comments from the Contracting Parties.

A mature draft is aimed to be submitted for the MARITIME meeting to take place in autumn 2016 and, after possible intersessional work and consultations, to HOD December 2016 for final publishing approval. The publication will be finalised and lay-outed after the HOD in December 2016 and thus be available during early spring 2017.

d) Project management

The project will be managed and implemented by the Secretariat. The Maritime Professional Secretary will coordinate implementation.

6. Expected results

According to targets.

7. Consistency with HELCOM priorities

X yes ___ no

8. Timetable

The project will be carried during the period January 2016-January 2017.

9. Budget

Budget is tentative and depending on employment arrangements i.e. project employment at the HELCOM Secretariat or engagement of experts.

9.1. Total cost:

45.000 Euro

9.2. Costs divided per financial year (Euro):

| | 15/16 | 16/17 | Total cost |
|--|-------|-------|--------------|
| Experts&interactive visualization | 20000 | 20000 | 40000 |
| Lay out& print of summary extract publication | 0 | 5000 | 5000 |
| Total cost | 20000 | 25000 | 45000 |

9.3. Sources of financing divided per financial year (Euro):

Financing to be provided from the HELCOM budget.

10. Additional requests (manpower, equipment, facilities, etc.)**10.1 From the Contracting Parties**

All Contracting Parties are requested to provide and check data, review assessment publication according to their possibilities

10.2 From the Secretariat

Parts of the work fall under the regular mandate of the Secretariat.

11. Organization of Project

The HELCOM Maritime and RESPONSE Group Contacts and Observers will be the main contact lists for project implementation and consultation. The FISH Group will be consulted regarding Aquaculture and Fisheries.

Project Coordinator will be MARITIME Professional Secretary (as part of regular duties)

HELCOM Risk Assessment Procedure is to be observed.

12. Signature of the Project Coordinator**13. Opinion of the Chairs of the relevant body****14. Opinion of the Executive Secretary**

Executive Secretary supports the project

15. Decision of the Heads of Delegation

HOD 49-2015 approved the proposal

Outline of HELCOM Maritime Assessment (c.f. doc. HOD 49-2015, 4-23, Attachment 1)

Annex 5 Statement by the European Commission Regarding Financing and the Implementation of EU Legislation

The EU is an important financing body for potential projects being considered within the context of HELCOM. In order to avoid any interference with the independent decision-making procedures established under the various financing instruments, the EU does, as a matter of principle, not take any position as regards any project proposal intended for submission to EU financing bodies. This should not be interpreted in any way as prejudging the position of the EU when taking financing decision.

The responsibility for implementing EU legislation is solely with the EU Member States. The role of the European Commission is, inter alia, to assess compliance with EU legislation once a Member State has submitted its report. Hence, any statement or position taken by the EU within the context of HELCOM should not be construed to give any assessment of whether the work done by HELCOM is compliant with EU legislation.

Statement regarding MSFD Implementation

The EU pointed out that any agreement that the EU delegation will give within the context of HELCOM in this respect is without prejudice to the European Commission's role under the EU Treaty to assess the implementation and compliance of EU Member States with EU law and the assessments that the European Commission is required to carry out in accordance with Articles 12 and 16 MSFD after EU Member States have officially reported to the European Commission.

List of Documents

| Name | Category | Submitted by | Date |
|---|----------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1-1 Provisional Agenda.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 27.10.2015 |
| 1-2 Annotations to the Provisional Agenda.pdf | CMNT | Executive Secretary | 27.10.2015 |
| 2-1 Preparations for HELCOM Marine Litter Stakeholder Conference 9.3.2016.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 12.11.2015 |
| 2-2 Provisional Agenda for HELCOM 37-2016.pdf | DEC | Chair and Executive Secretary | 30.11.2015 |
| 3-1 Updated Roadmap of HELCOM activities - status December 2015.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 4.12.2015 |
| 4-1 Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 6.11.2015 |
| 4-2 Outcome of GEAR 12-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 6.11. 2015 |
| 4-3 Outcome of PRESSURE 3-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 10.11. 2015 |
| 4-4 Proposal to delete hot spots from the list of JCP Hot Spots.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 10.11.2015 |
| 4-5 Information on progress in preparing the second holistic assessment.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 13.11. 2015 |
| 4-6 Draft HELCOM Recommendations on waterborne pollution input assessment and on monitoring of airborne pollution input.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 16.11.2015 |
| 4-7 Outcome of State and Conservation 3-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 16.11.2015 |
| 4-8 Summary of HELCOM TAPAS application.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 16.11.2015 |
| 4-9 A proposal for Core pressure indicator on oil spills affecting the marine environment.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 16.11.2015 |
| 4-10 Draft HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 18.11.2015 |
| 4-11 Progress in elaboration of the PLC products.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 18.11.2015 |
| 4-11-Add1 Updated division of tasks and timetable in the implementation plan of the HELCOM MAI-CART OPER project.pdf | CMNT | Executive Secretary | 3.12.2015 |
| 4-12 Draft Recommendation on Conservation of Baltic Sea species categorized as threatened according to HELCOM red list.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 18.11.2015 |
| 4-13 Proposal to establish a HELCOM intersessional expert network on eutrophication.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 18.11.2015 |
| 4-14 Draft Recommendation on Co-operation and coordination of research vessel based monitoring.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 18.11.2015 |
| 4-15 Follow-up of HELCOM agreements - examples based on the new system.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-15-Att. BSAP follow-up regional actions.xlsx | DEC | Executive Secretary | 24.11.2015 |
| 4-16 Proposal for financing model for the maintenance of Seatrack Web (STW).pdf | DEC | Sweden | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-17 Funding the EU MSFD Programs of Measures_CCB.pdf | CMNT | CCB | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-18 Call for HELCOM action regarding Baltic MPAs within Russian part of the Gulf of Finland.pdf | CMNT | CCB | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-19 Pending issues from State and Conservation 3-2015_CCB.pdf | CMNT | CCB | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-20 Working arrangement for development of indicators and updates of indicator evaluations.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-20-Attachment 1 List of nominated experts and participants of HELCOM expert groups, networks and projects.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-21 Draft Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 4-21-Rev1 Draft Regional Baltic Underwater Noise Roadmap.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 11.12.2015 |
| 4-22 Progress on setting up a regional registry for impulsive noise | DEC | Executive Secretary | 20.11.2015 |
| 4-23 Proposal for HELCOM Project on Maritime Assessment | DEC | Executive Secretary | 20.11.2015 |
| 4-24 Information on intersessional activities of the HELCOM Agri group | INF | Executive Secretary | 23.11.2015 |
| 4-25 Draft Joint documentation of regional coordination of programmes of measures | DEC | Chair of IG PoM | 23.11.2015 |
| 4-25-Corr1 Draft Joint documentation of regional coordination of programmes of measures in the Baltic Sea area.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 8.12.2015 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------------------|------------|
| 4-26 Proposed actions within HELCOM | DEC | Executive Secretary | 23.11.2015 |
| 4-27 Comments to Draft Joint documentation of regional coordination of programmes of measures | CMNT | Germany | 27.11.2015 |
| 4-28 Ecological coherence assessment of the Baltic Sea MPA network.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 30.11.2015 |
| 4-29 Roadmap for designating a NECA in the Baltic Sea in parallel with the North Sea.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 1.12.2015 |
| 4-30 Outcome of MARITIME 15-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 1.12.2015 |
| 4-30-Corr1 Cover Outcome of MARITIME 15-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 3.12.2015 |
| 4-31 Draft Terms of Reference for HELCOM-OSPAR TG BALLAST for 2015-2016.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 1.12. 2015 |
| 4-32 Initial stock-taking to improve assessment of dredging activities in the Baltic Sea.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 3.12. 2015 |
| 4-33 Danish comments on core indicators and GES boundaries.pdf | CMNT | Denmark | 3.12. 2015 |
| 4-34 Baltic LINes project.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 3.12. 2015 |
| 4-35 Outcome of FISH 3-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 4.12.2015 |
| 4-36 Amended future actions within HELCOM related to the Fish Group.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 4.12.2015 |
| 4-37 Danish comments on draft HELCOM Recommendation on sustainable aquaculture.pdf | CMNT | Denmark | 7.12.2015 |
| 4-38 Danish comments on the draft HELCOM Recommendation on the red list.pdf | CMNT | Denmark | 10.12.2015 |
| 4-39 Danish suggestions for a revised draft HELCOM Recommendation on the red list.pdf | CMNT | Denmark | 10.12.2015 |
| 5-1 Draft budget for the financial period 2016-2017.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 5-2 Draft budget estimate for 2017-2018.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 19.11.2015 |
| 5-3 Accounts of the Commission 2014-2015.pdf | DEC | Executive Secretary | 30.11.2015 |
| 6-1 Baltic Sea City Accelerator.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 6.11.2015 |
| 6-2 UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.pdf | CMNT | Executive Secretary | 6.11.2015 |
| 6-3 WWF Report All Hands on Deck.pdf | INF | WWF | 13.11.2015 |
| 6-4 CCB Report on climate change in the Baltic Sea region.pdf | INF | CCB | 1.12.2015 |
| 6-5 Publicity for HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and communication update.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 1.12.2015 |
| 6-6 Information on the planned activity of the oil company Lukoil.pdf | INF | Russia | 3.12.2015 |
| 6-7 Information on the joint UNEP-EC expert workshop on Regional Ocean Governance.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 3.12.2015 |
| 6-8 Ongoing projects within HELCOM.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 3.12.2015 |
| 6-9 Upcoming meetings within HELCOM and other forums in late 2015 and in 2016.pdf | INF | Executive Secretary | 3.12.2015 |
| 6-10 European Maritime Day Turku May 2016.pdf | INF | Finland | 3.12.2015 |
| 6-11 XVII International Environmental Forum Baltic Sea Day.pdf | INF | Russia | 4.12.2015 |
| 6-12 Reinforced work against dumping in the Baltic Sea.pdf | INF | Sweden | 4.12.2015 |
| 6-13 EUSBSR Annual Forum 2016.pdf | INF | Sweden | 9.12.2015 |